

INDUCTION.

And of so easy and so plain a stop⁶
 That the blunt monster with uncounted
 heads*
 The still-discordant wavering multitude,
 Can play upon it. But what need I
 thus
 My well-known body to anatomize
 Among my household ? Why is
 Rumour here ?
 I run before king Harry's victory;
 Who, in a bloody field by Shrewsbury,
 Hath beaten down young Hotspur, and
 his troops,
 Quenching the flame of bold rebellion
 Even with the rebels' blood. But
 what mean I
 To speak so true at first ? my office is
 To noise abroad,—that Harry
 Monmouth fell
 Under the wrath of noble Hotspur's
 sword:
 And that the king before the Douglas
 rage
 Stoop'd his anointed head as low as
 death.
 This have I rumour'd through the
 peasant towns
 Between that royal field of Shrewsbury
 And this worm-eaten hold of ragged
 stone⁷,
 Where Hotspur's father, old
 Northumberland,
 Lies crafty-sick: the posts come tiring
 on,

6 — so easy and so plain a stop. The stops are the holes in a flute or pipe. So, in Hamlet: "Govern these ventages with your finger and thumb:—Look you, these are the stops. Again ; You would seem to know my stops." STEEVENS.

7 And this worm-eaten hold of ragged stone,
 The old copies
 read—"worm-eaten hole" MALONE.
 Northumberland had retired and fortified himself
 in his castle
 a place of strength in those times. though the
 building might be
 impaired by its antiquity ; and therefore. I
 believe our poet
 wrote:
 " And this worm-eaten hold of ragged stone."
 THEOBALD.
 Theobald is certainly right. So in The Wars of
 Cyrus,
 1594:
 * Besieg'd his fortress with his men at arms,
 * Where only I and that Libanio stay'd
 * By whom I live. For when the hold was
 lost &c.
 Again, in King Henry VI. Part III.:
 * She is hard by with twenty thousand men,
 * And therefore fortify your hold, my lord."

STEEVENS. .